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Just what has appeared before Kosuzu, shaken into action by the "infinite truths"?

第49話 Kosuzu Motoori's Conflict (Part 2)

◆原作 ZUN ◆漫画 春河もえ

東方鈴奈庵 ～Forbidden Scrollery.

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SO YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT KOSUZU, HUH?

WELL, IT IS TRUE THAT SHE'S IN A PRETTY PRECARIOUS POSITION.

IT'S NOT TOO STRANGE THAT SHE'D DEVELOP A HANGUP OR TWO, REALLY.

SHE'S ALREADY BEING USED BY YOUKAI THOUGH.

AH, YEAH

Like, the tengu and the others

SHE MAY BE A COWARD, BUT SHE'S AN EXTREMELY CURIOUS COWARD.

AT THIS RATE, I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF SHE ENDS UP BEING USED BY YOUKAI.

前回までのあらすじ

幻想郷の人里にある貸本屋「鈴奈庵」の娘、本居小鈴。彼女は「妖魔本」と呼ばれる、妖怪の存在を記した本を読む能力に目覚めていた。妖怪を恐れる人間たちがいてこそ妖怪は存在できるという事実を知り、混乱する小鈴の前に、以前「百物語」を催した際に出会った八雲紫が現れて――？

AH!

SHE MIGHT HAVE A DANGER-OUS WAY OF THINKING.

AS LONG AS SHE STAYS IN THE HUMAN VILLAGE AND DOES NORMAL HUMAN THINGS, THERE'S NO REASON FOR HER TO GET HURT.

BUT THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT'S SO WORRYING ABOUT HER.

YOU THINK?

BUT, WELL,

AS LONG AS SHE'S JUST BEING USED, I DONT SEE MUCH CAUSE FOR CONCERN.

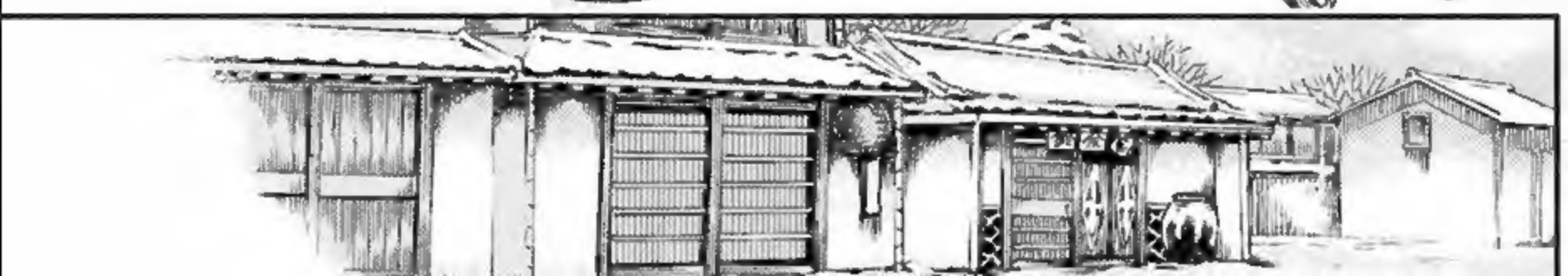
THAT'S FOR SURE.

THAT GIRL'S ALWAYS HAD SOMETHING OF A FASCINATION WITH THE ABNORMAL.

LIKE, SHE LOVES THOSE YOUMA BOOKS THAT NORMAL PEOPLE FIND CREEPY.

TO PUT IT SIMPLY, IT'S ALMOST LIKE SHE HAS AN ADMIRATION FOR YOUKAI...

MMM-HMM



MISS REIMU'S BEEN KEEPING AN EYE ON ME?

KOSUZU

INDEED.

AS YOU'RE WELL AWARE, SHE'S A HUMAN WHO SPECIALIZES IN YOUKAI EXTERMINATION.

SHE ESPECIALLY HATES IT WHEN HUMANS ADMIRE YOUKAI THE WAY YOU DO.

博麗霊夢●幻想郷内、博麗神社の巫女。妖怪退治を行っている。"楽園の素敵なシャーマン"

霧雨魔理沙●幻想郷にある魔法の森に住んでいる人間の魔法使い。"普通の魔法使い"

本居小鈴●幻想郷の人里にある貸本屋「鈴奈庵」の娘。"判読眼のビブロフィリア"

八雲紫●かつて催された「百物語」で小鈴と面識を持った。"幻想郷のゲートキーパー"

THAT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS SIMPLY FROM YOUR READING OF THE NIGHT PARADE SCROLL.

YOU CLEARLY HAVE A FASCINATION WITH THE ABNORMAL.

NO, NOT AT ALL.

A-ADMIRE?

THAT'S A BIT MUCH...

BA-BUMP BA-BUMP

IF SHE DETER-MINES THAT YOU'RE AN ENEMY OF HUMANITY, THEN YOU'LL LIKELY BE ELIMINATED.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN REIMU HAS HER EYE ON SOMEONE?

GULP...

SO...

BUT-

BUT I'M *NOT* A YOUKAI!

IF YOU'RE JUDGED TO BE A YOUKAI, THAT IS.

REIMU *IS*, AFTER ALL, A YOUKAI EXTERMINATOR.

E-

ELIMI-NATED?!

I

INTEND TO PROTECT YOU FROM REIMU.

GIGGLE

NOW, NOW. DON'T PANIC.

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I CAME HERE TO DISCUSS WITH YOU.

MAY I ASK WHAT YOU THINK OF YOUKAI?

INCIDENT-ALLY,

HUH?

WAIT, WHY WOULD YOU EVEN-

KOSUZU

TOUCH

WHY NOT

I'D LIKE YOU TO THINK MORE DEEPLY ON THIS.

"YOU GUESS," IS IT?

WHAT? UH...

I GUESS THEY'RE THE ENEMIES OF HUMANITY?

TRY TO RECALL THE YOUKAI

UZU

YOU'VE ENCOUNTERED RECENTLY?

HMM...

WHEN I TRY REREADING THEM,

I FEEL LIKE THE YOUMA BOOKS MAKE SOME DIFFERENT BACKGROUND ASSUMPTIONS THAN ORDINARY BOOKS...

DING-A-LING♪

OH, WELCOME TO-

GAH!

IBA-BUMP

IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

MIND IF I COME IN?

NO, NOT AT ALL.

TAKE YOUR TIME.

CLANGS

SO I WAS WONDERING IF YOU GOT ANY NEW BOOKS IN RECENTLY.

HOW ABOUT THIS?

IT'S THE HIEDA FAMILY'S "INHUMAN FOLKLORE".

IT'S A BOOK ON ORAL TRADITION FROM OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE.

Seemed dense so I haven't read it though

OOH, SOUNDS RIGHT UP MY ALLEY.

LOOKS LIKE EVEN YOUKAI CAN BE NICE TO HUMANS SOMETIMES.

KOSUZU

HM.

I SEE, I SEE. INTERESTING STUFF.

SHE KNOWS DARN WELL THAT'S THE BOOK SHE MADE AKYU WRITE.

IT'S INCREDIBLE HOW EASILY SHE LIES THROUGH HER TEETH.

OH RIGHT.

KOSUZU

I'LL BE BORROWING THIS THEN.

ALSO...

LIKE THE "NIGHT PARADE PICTURE SCROLL" YOU'VE GOT IN THE BACK.

AND THE OTHER YOUMA BOOKS.

GLANCE

I'M A REGULAR BY NOW,

SO WHY NOT LET ME BORROW SOME OF THE GOOD STUFF TOO?

...WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

CHUCKLE

NO USE PLAYING DUMB.

Y-

YOUMA BOOKS?

WHAT ARE THOSE?

EVERYONE KNOWS YOU'RE OBSESSED WITH 'EM.

CLATTER

I-

IT'S TRUE THAT I HAVE QUITE A COLLEC-TION OF THEM.

KOSUZU

BUT THEY'RE MINE. THEY'RE NOT FOR LOANING OUT TO ORDINARY CUSTOMERS.

HEH.

"ORDINARY CUSTOMERS"?

I WASN'T BORN YESTERDAY, YOU KNOW.

I HAD AGATHA CHRIS Q. WRITE THAT BOOK JUST TO LET HER KNOW MY REAL IDENTITY.

AND IF WORD OF THAT DIDN'T MAKE ITS WAY TO YOU,

BAM

HUH?

HUH?

THEN THE LITTLE LADY'S STUPIDER THAN I THOUGHT.

I CAN TELL FROM YOUR REACTION THAT YOU ALREADY KNOW,

BUT LET ME SAY IT JUST TO BE CLEAR.

I'M A YOUKAI.

AND YOUKAI WANT YOUMA BOOKS.

ONLY MAKES SENSE, RIGHT?

...NOW,

IT'D BE SIMPLE ENOUGH TO KILL YOU AND TAKE THEM, IF I WANTED TO.

BUT I DON'T WORK THAT WAY.

SINCE WE'RE IN THE HUMAN VILLAGE, I'VE BEEN ACTING HUMAN IN APPEAR-ANCE.

YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT MY NATURE AS A YOUKAI.

AND NOW THAT I'M A REGULAR HERE,

I FEEL LIKE IT'S ABOUT TIME I BORROWED A YOUMA BOOK.

I'LL WAIT AS LONG AS IT TAKES.

BUT WE'RE FRIENDS, YOU AND I.

SO I'M EXPECTING TO LIKE YOUR ANSWER.

...

YOU KNOW, I COULD BE A SOUNDING BOARD FOR WHATEVER'S BOTHERING YOU. I'D TREAT IT SEPARATELY FROM THIS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONCERN.

JUST...

LET ME THINK ABOUT IT. PLEASE.

THERE'S...

THERE'S BEEN SOMETHING TROUBLING ME LATELY.

UZU

HOW COULD I POSSIBLY TALK TO HER ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT YOUKAI ARE THE ENEMY?

...

BUT I'LL HAVE TO PASS.

THIS ISN'T SOMETHING I CAN DISCUSS WITH A- WITH YOU.

FAIR ENOUGH.

BUT LET ME SAY ONE LAST THING.

YOUMA BOOKS ARE EITHER WRITTEN BY YOUKAI, FOR YOUKAI,

HAVE A YOUKAI SEALED INSIDE,

OR HOLD THE POWER OF A YOUKAI.

BY BEING SURROUNDED BY SO MUCH YOUKAI ENERGY,

YOU'RE ALREADY CURSED.

HERE YOU GO.

THIS MONTH'S PAPER.

THANKS AGAIN FOR LETTING ME DROP THEM OFF HERE.

OH, RIGHT.

I BELIEVE I TOLD YOU THAT NEXT TIME I'D LIKE TO DROP OFF ANOTHER ONE OF MY BOOKS, INSTEAD OF A NEWSPAPER?

OH, NOT AT ALL.

THEY'RE QUITE POPULAR, SO I SHOULD BE THE ONE THANKING YOU.

KOSUZU

I CAN'T RELEASE IT ANYMORE ANYWAY.

ACTUALLY, I HAD TO CANCEL IT MYSELF, FOR VARIOUS REASONS.

OH WELL, IT DOESN'T MATTER.

I DIDN'T MENTION IT?

HUH?"

YOU DID?

UH, ACTUALLY THIS IS THE FIRST I'VE HEARD THAT YOU WERE EVEN WRITING A BOOK.

OH YEAH, YOU JUST SAID THAT.

THEN FORGET I MENTIONED IT.

HA HA HA...

YOU HAVEN'T PUT UP ANY ADVERTISE-MENTS OR ANYTHING YET, RIGHT?

IF YOU HAVE, WE'LL HAVE TO POST A RETRACTION.

O-OH.

IS THAT SO?

KOSUZU

YOU KNOW, I WAS MEANING TO ASK...

MISS AYA, YOU'RE A TENGU, RIGHT?

UM...

COME TO THINK OF IT, SHE'S A YOUKAI TOO, ISN'T SHE?

KOSUZU

SO, TO A TENGU,

I'M CURI-OUS...

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF US HUMANS?

SUZU

HM.

WHY DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?

ERK

I-IT'S JUST THAT HUMANS ARE ALWAYS AFRAID OF YOUKAI,

BUT WHEN I LOOK AT YOU, YOU DON'T SEEM ALL THAT DIFFERENT FROM ANYONE ELSE.

OH REALLY NOW?

DO I TRULY APPEAR SO POWERLESS TO YOU?

SMILE

NO, u u

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.

EVEN YOU, FOR EXAMPLE.

IT'S ONE THING TO MEET WITH LITTLE SUZY IN SUZUNAAN,

BUT IF I MET YOU OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE, I'D TREAT YOU VERY DIFFERENTLY.

NOT ONLY DO YOUKAI CONSIDER THE INDIVIDUAL MORE IMPORTANT THAN HUMANS DO,

BUT THAT INDIVIDUALITY ISN'T SOMETHING WE OBSESS OVER.

IT SEEMS THAT TO HUMANS, TENGU ARE JUST ONE OF MANY KINDS OF YOUKAI,

BUT TO THE TENGU THERE ARE PLENTY OF DIFFERENT KINDS OF HUMANS TOO.

HEH HEH.

I WAS JUST KIDDING.

HUMANS THAT LIVE IN THE VILLAGE, AND HUMANS THAT DON'T.

HUMANS THAT ENTER THE MOUNTAIN, AND HUMANS FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

AND WE HAVE DIFFERENT FEELINGS ABOUT EACH OF THEM, WHICH GIVE RISE TO ENTIRELY DIFFERENT RELATIONSHIPS.

THAT'S WHAT I THINK!

WE DON'T LUMP INDIVIDUALS INTO SUCH SIMPLE CATEGORIES AS ENEMIES OR ALLIES, THE WAY HUMANS DO.

...EVEN IF THEY'RE YOUKAI,

AS LONG AS THEY AREN'T HURTING US THEY AREN'T OUR ENEMIES.

I SEE.

SNAP

I'M RELIEVED TO HEAR THAT.

OH.

DID I NOT NOT SAY?

RE-LIEVED ...?

WHY...?

I'M A YOUKAI,

WHO'S HERE TO SAVE YOU.

RATTLE

THE "TRUTH"

"YOU HAVE TO CHOOSE THE TRUTH THAT'S BEST FOR YOU."

I'VE MET WITH ALL SORTS OF PEOPLE,

AND I THINK I'M BEGINNING TO SEE IT.

THAT I SHOULD CHOOSE.

One small yet huge step

6月号に続く

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